

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 (ISO) W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0988

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, AS

SUBJ: TEXTILES: JAPANESE REACTION TO GOA REJECTION OF CONSUL-
TATIONS UNDER MFA

REFS: A) STATE 138365; B) EC BRUSSELS 5331

MANILA FOR SMITH AND GAREL

SUMMARY: FONOFF AND MITI HAVE NOT YET CONSULTED RE GOJ RESPONSE
TO AUSTRALIAN NOTE REJECTING TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS UNDER MFA.
AT THIS STAGE MITI SOMEWHAT MORE INCLINED THAN FONOFF TO CON-
TINUE MILITANT OPPOSITION TO AUSTRALIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS,
BUT OFFICIALS KF BOTH AGENCIES CONSIDERING RAISING ISSUE IN
TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY (TSB) AND POSSIBLY TEXTILE COMMITTEE
OF GATT. GOJ NOT PRESENTLY CONSIDERING ANY SPECIAL BILATERAL
TEXTILE TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED GOA NOTE QUOTED REF A SEPARATELY WITH NOGAMI,
FIRST INTL. ORGANIZATIONS DIV., ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FON-
OFF, AND KURODA, TRADE DIVISION, CONSUMER GOODS INDUSTRIES BUR-
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EAU, MITI. NOGAMI ACKNOWLEDGED GOJ RECEIPT OF SIMILAR GOA NOTE
VERBALE, WHICH HE INTERPRETS AS FLAT REJECTION OF JAPAN'S EAR-
LIER REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 9, PARA 2, MFA.
KURODA UNAWARE OF GOA NOTE WHEN CONTACTED BY EMB-

OFF. BOTH OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT REACTIONS REPORTED BELOW PRELIMINARY AND PERSONAL AND THAT FONOFF AND MITI HAVE NOT DISCUSSED ANY NEW STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRALIAN TQ'S.

2. KURODA STATED GOJ HAD EXPECTED FROM BEGINNING THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD REJECT CONSULTATIONS UNDER MFA THUS HE THOUGHT GOJ AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD JOINED IN REQUESTING THEM OUGHT NOT BE DETERRED BY THIS EXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS FROM CONTINUING TO PRESS GOA TO MODIFY ITS TEXTILE IMPORT AND OTHER TRADE RESTRICTIVE POLICIES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, BOTH IN GATT AND IN COURSE OF NORMAL BILATERAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS. HE ADDED GOA APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND THUS OUGHT TO BE DISCOURAGED FROM THINKING IT HAS WORN DOWN THE RESISTANCE OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS TO SUCH MEASURES. NOGAMI AGREED IT IMPORTANT NOT TO APPEAR TO HAVE ACQUIESCED IN AUSTRALIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS BUT SEES LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF GOA RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES AS LONG AS ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PERSIST AND PROTECTIONISM CONTINUES TO BE WIDELY SUPPORTED DOMESTICALLY AS AN APPROPRIATE REMEDY FOR THEM.

3. BOTH GOJ OFFICIALS MENTIONED RAISING AUSTRALIAN TQ'S IN TSB AND INDICATED THEY HAD DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH TSB CHAIRMAN WURTH DURING HIS VISIT TO JAPAN IN MAY. NOGAMI SAID HE WAS DISCOURAGED BY WURTH'S BELIEF THAT AUSTRALIA WILL REFUSE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS ITS TEXTILE IMPORT POLICY IN THIS FORUM. KURODA, HOWEVER, BELIEVES ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED IN TSB ANYWAY FOR SAKE OF INTERGRITY OF MFA AND BELIEVES WURTH AGREES AND IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE.

4. ACCORDING NOGAMI, SECOND POSSIBILITY IS TO RAISE MATTER AT FALL MEETING OF GATT TEXTILE COMMITTEE (PARENT BODY OF TBS), WHICH AUSTRALIA UNLIKELY TO BOYCOTT, BUT HE NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF GENERAL NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS IN THIS FORUM, CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC COMPLAINT AGAINST ONE COUNTRY WOULD BE AWKWARD AND MIGHT BE PASSED OVER WITH LITTLE ATTENTION OR EFFECT. GOA BOYCOTT OF TSB, KURODA OBSERVED, MIGHT, HOWEVER, PRODUCE APPROPRIATE RATIONALE FOR ESCALATING ISSUE TO PARENT COMMITTEE.
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5. ACCORDING NOGAMI, GOA, IN OFFERING TO HOLD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS URELATED TO MFA, DID NOT EXPRESS PREFERENCE FOR CANBERRA AS THE VENUE. HE SAID HE CONSIDERED GOJ TO HAVE SUFFICIENT TEXTILE EXPERTISE FOR LENGTHY CONSULTATIONS ONLY IN TOKYO AND GEN-EVA (WHICH HE BELIEVES AUSTRALIA REJECTED EARLIER AS PART OF ITS ASSERTION THAT ITS TEXTILE TQ'S ARE NOT BOUND BY GATT). HE ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE GOJ NOT PRESENTLY CONSIDERING SPECIAL BILATERAL TEXTILE TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA.
HODGSON

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